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LABOR LAW BENEFITS CITED

The enactment of the Labor Law on the memorable day of 24 June 1946 was the first guarantee of imp. oved working conditions and security of livelihood for the laboring masses in the northern half of the Republic. The Law has liberated the worker from the semislavery conditions created by the Japanese who imposed on the Korean workers 12 - 16 hours of daily drudgery at pitifully low wages.

The Law guarantees the social minimum for the workers, nets forth special protective provisions for juvenile and female workers; stipulates various types of social insurance and sid; and recognizes individual and collective bargaining, uniform wages, hours, work contracts, etc. All these factors have been enormously instrumental to the steady climb of economic, social, and cultural standards of the labor in North Korea.

To take specific examples from Ewenghee Province, average wages in 1947 rose to 112.68 percent of that of 1946. The average wage recorded for the first quarter of 1949 was 114 percent of that of 1948. Mometary wage increase was augmented by an increase of real wages resulting from the currency reform in December 1947 which brought down the price level considerably. The housing problem was also solved, and the livelihood of the workers was stabilized.

Many people have been benefited by the social welfare service. In Hwanghae Province alone, the records up to the end of May 1949 show that 673,293 persons received free medical care, 211,856 received permanent relief allowances, and 407,631 received temporary relief allowances. Also, 380 women workers received maternity allowances, 2,795 received funeral allowances, 106 received the tubercular patient allowances, 408 received survivor's pensions, 418 entered free hospitals, 1,122 entered sanitariums, and 4,480 entered rest homes.

Over 20 clubs were organized in Hwanghao Province for the promotion of culture. These clubs periodically sponsor art exhibitions, concerts, dramas, and conduct sessions for music, motion picture, and literature appreciation in work shops. Physical education is promoted among the workers. Attempt are cometantly made to popularize the technical training schools and adult education achcole.

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